

Analytical Causations between 1200 to 1750 CE

I. Post-Classical Causations (c. 1200 - 1450 CE)

1. The Transformation of the Islamic World

- **The Battle of Manzikert (1071):** The Seljuk Turks' victory over the Byzantine Empire directly caused the conquest of most of Anatolia. This territorial loss by a Christian power served as a primary trigger for the **First Crusade** (1095–1099), as Western Europeans mobilized to reclaim the region.
- **Repulsion of the Mongols by the Delhi Sultanate:** Because the Sultanate successfully fended off the Chagatai Khanate, the population and culture of the Indian subcontinent were spared the "widespread destruction and death" seen in Persia and China. This stability caused the regional population to grow by 40% and economic production to surge by over 20%.
- **Mongol Conquest and Fragmentation:** The Mongol invasions caused the decline of the Seljuk Empire. Later, the death of Kublai Khan (1294) caused the Mongol Empire to fragment into four **khanates**, which weakened their collective control and eventually allowed local kingdoms in Europe, Persia, and China to regain their autonomy by the mid-14th century.
- **Trade and Diasporic Communities:** The dominance of Muslim merchants in the Indian Ocean (8th–16th centuries) caused the formation of **diasporic communities**. Their presence in trading towns led to local conversions and the establishment of mosques in areas like Malaysia, Indonesia, and East Africa.

2. Chinese Dynastic Cycles and Innovations

- **Sui Public Works and Centralization:** The Sui Dynasty's ambitious projects, like the **Grand Canal**, linked the northern and central Chinese economies. However, the high cost and labor demands of these projects, combined with military campaigns, caused the dynasty to shorten its own duration.
- **Champa Rice and Population Booms:** The introduction of drought-resistant **Champa rice** from Vietnam during the Tang Dynasty caused a massive "swelling" of the Chinese population because food could now be grown more reliably.

- **The An Lushan Rebellion (755-763):** This devastating conflict caused the decline of Tang power, as the dynasty struggled to maintain control over its territories in the years following the revolt.
- **Buddhist Persecution (840-846):** Emperor Wuzong's edicts to destroy temples and relics were caused by a dual need: to "cleanse" China of foreign ideas (Neo-Confucianism) and to confiscate Buddhist treasures to fund military campaigns.
- **State-Endorsed Commercialism:** Under the Song Dynasty, the government's focus on maritime ventures and the creation of the **Maritime Trade Supervisorate** caused a shift toward goods produced for profit, essentially starting an early Chinese industrial revolution in steel and iron.

3. Feudalism and Nomadic Raids

- **The Fall of Rome (5th Century):** The collapse of a strong central authority in Europe caused a power vacuum, which led to the development of the decentralized **manorial system** (feudalism).
 - **Viking Raids:** The 300-year stretch of Norse raids (starting in 795 CE) caused Europeans to adopt the feudal system more widely as a local means of defending against these unpredictable sea-borne invaders.
 - **The Taika Reforms (7th Century):** Japan's attempt to wholly adopt Chinese culture and government was caused by a desire to emulate the strong centralized imperial system of China; however, the continued power of local clans caused the attempt at a strong central government to fail.
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II. Early Modern Era Causations (c. 1450 - 1750 CE)

1. The European Renaissance and Exploration

- **Rediscovery of Knowledge:** The Crusades caused Europeans to come into contact with Greco-Roman and Arab scholarly works. The invention of the **printing press** then caused this knowledge to be disseminated with "unparalleled speed and cost efficiency," sparking the Renaissance.

- **The "3 G's" of Exploration:** The desire for **God** (spreading Christianity), **Gold** (riches), and **Glory** (conquest) caused European monarchs like Ferdinand and Isabella to fund expensive maritime voyages.
- **Weaponization of Gunpowder:** The European development of gunboats and handheld firearms caused a massive military imbalance, allowing them to establish "trade-post empires" in the Indian Ocean and conquer vast territories in the Americas.

2. The Columbian Exchange and Global Shifts

- **Biological Exchange:** The connection of the hemispheres caused American crops (potatoes, maize) to become staple foods in Afro-Eurasia, leading to a global population boom. Conversely, the introduction of Afro-Eurasian diseases (smallpox, measles) caused the death of roughly 90% of the Native American population.
- **The Atlantic System (Triangular Trade):** The high labor demands of American plantations caused Europeans to implement a cycle of buying slaves from African kingdoms and shipping them across the **Middle Passage**.
- **Spanish Silver and Inflation:** The discovery of "hordes of silver" in the Americas caused Spain to become incredibly wealthy, but their inability to adjust taxes for **inflation** and overspending on European wars eventually caused the empire's decline in the 17th century.
- **The Ming "Silver-Only" Tax Policy:** The Ming government's requirement that all taxes be paid in silver caused peasants to overproduce luxury goods like silk. This caused a surplus, which led to **price deflation** (plummeting values) and a loss of production for necessities like food.

3. State Centralization and Resistance

- **Monarchical Wealth:** Increased revenue from global trade caused European rulers to centralize their power by creating professional standing armies, effectively stripping the traditional nobility of their independent military roles.
- **The Divine Right of Kings:** This doctrine was used by monarchs to claim that their authority came directly from God, which caused them

to build magnificent monuments (like the **Palace of Versailles**) to demonstrate their unquestionable power.

- **The Enclosure Movement:** Commercial farmers in England began fencing off "Common Land" to maximize profit; this caused the removal of the traditional peasantry from the land and led to revolts like **Kett's Rebellion**.
- **The Shimabara Rebellion (1637):** Unrest over taxes and religious persecution in Japan caused the Tokugawa Shogunate to initiate **Sakoku**, a policy that completely cut Japan off from the outside world to ensure domestic peace.

4. Religious and Scientific Revolutions

- **The Protestant Reformation:** Martin Luther's study of original texts caused him to realize that 16th-century Catholicism did not resemble early Christianity; the printing press caused his **95 Theses** to spread too quickly for the Church to silence him.
- **The Scientific Revolution:** The development of new technologies like the telescope caused thinkers to challenge classical views (like the geocentric solar system). This caused a shift in the academic world toward knowledge based on **math, observation, and experimentation**.
- **The Little Ice Age:** A global cooling period (1300–1850) caused a temporary slowing of population growth because less land was available for agriculture and growing seasons were shortened.